Stanford



James Hamilton

Freeman-Thornton Chair for the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Hearst Professor and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research

Communication

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

James T. Hamilton is Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Hearst Professor of Communication, and Director of the Stanford Journalism Program. His most recent book is You Got In! Now What? 100 Insights into Finding Your Best Life in College (Radius Book Group, 2025). His books on media markets and information provision include All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News (Princeton, 2004), Regulation Through Revelation: The Origin, Politics, and Impacts of the Toxics Release Inventory Program (Cambridge, 2005), and Channeling Violence: The Economic Market for Violent Television Programming (Princeton, 1998). His book Democracy's Detectives: The Economics of Investigative Journalism (Harvard, 2016) focuses on the market for investigative reporting. Through research in the field of computational journalism, he is exploring how the costs of story discovery can be lowered through better use of data and algorithms. He is co-founder of the Stanford Computational Journalism Lab, Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, affiliated faculty at the Brown Institute for Media Innovation, and member of the JSK Fellowships Board of Visitors.

For his accomplishments in research, he has won awards such as the David N Kershaw Award of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the Goldsmith Book Prize from the Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center (twice), the Frank Luther Mott Research Award (twice), the Tankard Book Award, and a Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowship. Teaching awards from Harvard, Duke, and Stanford include the Allyn Young Prize for Excellence in Teaching the Principles of Economics, Trinity College Distinguished Teaching Award, Bass Society of Fellows, Susan Tifft Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award, and School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Prior to joining the Stanford faculty, Hamilton taught at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, where he directed the De Witt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. He earned a BA in Economics and Government (summa cum laude) and PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Communication
- Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University, (2025- present)
- Chair, Department of Communication, Stanford University, (2018-2024)
- Chair (Interim), Department of Communication, Stanford University, (2014-2015)
- Director of the Journalism Program, Stanford University, (2013- present)

- Hearst Professor of Communication, Stanford University, (2013- present)
- Professor of Communication, Stanford University, (2013-2013)
- Co-Director, Policy Journalism and Media Studies Certificate Program, (2008-2013)
- Director, DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy, (2008-2013)
- Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, (2007-2008)
- Charles S. Sydnor Professor of Public Policy, Duke University, (2004-2013)
- Professor of Economics and Political Science, Duke University, (2004-2013)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Public Policy Department, Duke University, (2004-2007)
- Oscar L. Tang Family Professor of Public Policy, Economics, and Political Science, Duke University, (2003-2004)
- Marvin Kalb Chair in Global Communications, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, (2002-2002)
- Visiting Associate Professor, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, (2002-2002)
- Associate Director, Sanford Institute of Public Policy, (2001-2002)
- Oscar L. Tang Family Associate Professor of Public Policy, Economics, and Political Science, Duke University, (2000-2003)
- Bass Society of Fellows, Duke University, (2000-2000)
- Associate Professor of Public Policy, Economics, and Political Science, Duke University, (1998-2000)
- Director, Duke Program on Violence and the Media, (1993-2000)
- Director, Duke Program on Violence and the Media, Duke University, (1993-2000)
- Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Economics, and Political Science, Duke University, (1991-1998)
- John Olin Law and Economics Fellow, Duke Law School, (1990-1991)
- Graduate Fellowship, National Science Foundation, (1985-1988)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- J Frederick and Elisabeth Brewer Weintz University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, Stanford University (2023-2028)
- Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences (2017)
- Goldsmith Book Prize, Shorenstein Center, Kennedy School of Government (2017)
- James Tankard Book Award, AEJMC (2017)
- Frank Luther Mott Research Award, AEJMC (2016)
- Susan E. Tifft Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award, Sanford Institute (2012)
- Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (2007)
- Fellow in Environmental Regulatory Implementation, Resources for the Future (2006)
- Frank Luther Mott Research Award, AEJMC (2005)
- Fellow in Environmental Regulatory Implementation, Resources for the Future (2002)
- David N. Kershaw Award, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2001)
- Bass Society of Fellows, Duke University (2000)
- Goldsmith Book Prize, Shorenstein Center, Kennedy School of Government (1999)
- Vernon Prize, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (1995)
- Faculty Award, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (1994)
- Distinguished Teaching Award, Trinity College (Duke) (1993)
- John Olin Law and Economics Fellow, Duke Law School (1990)
- Allyn Young Prize for Excellence in Teaching the Principles of Economics, Harvard University (1988)

- Graduate Fellowship, National Science Foundation (1985-1988)
- John Harvard Scholar, Harvard University (1980-1983)
- Presidential Scholar, Department of Education (1979)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Advisory editor, International Journal of Communication
- Referee, American Economic Review
- Referee, American Journal of Political Science
- Referee, American Political Science Review
- Referee, B.E. Journals in Economic Analysis and Activity
- Referee, Communication Theory
- Referee, Contemporary Economic Policy
- Referee, Demography
- Referee, Economic Inquiry
- Referee, Environment and Development Economics
- Referee, Environmental Economics and Policy Studies
- Referee, Environmental Sciences
- Referee, Governance
- Referee, Growth and Change
- Referee, Harvard University Press
- Referee, Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media
- Referee, Journal of Economic Education
- Referee, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization
- Referee, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management
- Referee, Journal of Law and Economics
- Referee, Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization
- Referee, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management
- Referee, Journal of Politics
- Referee, Journal of Public Economics
- Referee, Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics
- Referee, Journal of Risk and Uncertainty
- Referee, Journalism: Theory, Practice, and Criticism
- Referee, National Research Council
- Referee, National Science Foundation
- Referee, Policy Studies Journal
- Referee, Political Communication
- Referee, Princeton University Press
- Referee, Public Choice
- Referee, Quarterly Journal of Economics
- Referee, Resource and Energy Economics

- Referee, Review of Economics and Statistics
- Referee, Risk Analysis
- Referee, Smith Richardson Foundation
- Referee, Social Problems
- Referee, Social Science Quarterly
- Referee, Southern Economic Journal
- Referee, University of Chicago Press
- Referee, W.W. Norton

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Science, Technology and Society

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Harvard University , Economics (1991)
- B.A., Harvard University , Economics and Government (1983)

LINKS

- Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=pyp_VwYAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Media economics, journalism, economics of regulation

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Exploring Japan's Media Landscape: OSPKYOTO 55 (Spr)
- Journalism Thesis: COMM 289P (Spr)

2025-26

- Journalism Thesis: COMM 289P (Spr)

2024-25

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Journalism Thesis: COMM 289P (Spr)

2023-24

- Exploring Japan's Media Landscape: OSPKYOTO 55 (Spr)
- Journalism Thesis: COMM 289P (Spr)
- Perspectives on American Journalism: AMSTUD 125, COMM 125, COMM 225 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Matt DeButts

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Reagan Ross

Master's Program Advisor

Lily Wang

Undergraduate Major Advisor

Jack Quach

Doctoral (Program)

Reagan Ross

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The psychology of poverty and life online: natural experiments on the effects of smartphone payday loan ads on psychological stress** *INFORMATION COMMUNICATION & SOCIETY*
  Lee, J., Hamilton, J. T., Ram, N., Roehrick, K., Reeves, B.
  2022
- **Anchoring in the past, tweeting from the present: Cognitive bias in journalists' word choices.** *PloS one*
  Lee, J., Hamilton, J. T.
  2022; 17 (3): e0263730
- **Poor Information: How Economics Affects the Information Lives of Low-Income Individuals** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION*
  Hamilton, J. T., Morgan, F.
  2018; 12: 2832–50
- **Transparency in Politics and the Media: Accountability and Open Government**
  edited by Hamilton, J. T., Bowles, N., Levy, D.
  London: I.B. Tauris.2014
- **Computational Journalism** *COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ACM*
  Cohen, S., Hamilton, J. T., Turner, F.
  2011; 54 (10): 66-71
- **What's the Incentive to Save Journalism** *Will the Last Reporter Please Turn Out the Lights: The Collapse of Journalism and What Can be Done to Fix It*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by McChesney, R. W., Pickard, V.
  New York: New Press.2011
- **Regulation Through Revelation: The Origin, Politics, and Impacts of the Toxics Release**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  2011
- **Why Addressing the Poor and Underinsured is Vexing** *HEALTH COMMUNICATION*
  Southwell, B. G., Hamilton, J. T., Slater, J. S.
  2011; 26 (6): 583-585
- **THE (MANY) MARKETS FOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS How news from abroad sells at home** *JOURNALISM STUDIES*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  2010; 11 (5): 650-666
- **Conserving Data in the Conservation Reserve Program: How a Regulatory Program Runs on Imperfect Information**
  Hamiltom, J. T.

How a Regulatory Program Runs on Imperfect Information.2010

- **Tracking Toxics When the Data Are Polluted: How Computational Journalism Can Uncover What Polluters Would Prefer to Hide** *Nieman Reports*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  2009; 63 (1): 16-18
- **You Are What You Choose: The Habits of Mind that Really Determine How We Make Decisions**
  Hamilton, J. T., Marchi, S. d.
  New York: Portfolio.2009
- **The Road Ahead for Media Hybrids: Report of the Duke Nonprofit Media Conference** *Duke Nonprofit Media Conferenc*
  Hamilton, J.
  2009
- **News that sells: Media competition and news content** *JAPANESE JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  2007; 8: 7-42
- **Assessing the accuracy of self-reported data: An evaluation of the toxics release inventory** *JOURNAL OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY*
  De Marchi, S., Hamilton, J. T.
  2006; 32 (1): 57-76
- **Environmental Equity and the Siting of Hazardous Waste Facilities in OECD Countries: Evidence and Policies** *The Distributional Effects of Environmental Policy*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Serret, Y., Johnstone, N.
  Northhampton, MA: Edward Elgar and OECD.2006
- **All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News.**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  2006
- **The Market and the Media** *Institutions of American Democracy: The Press*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Overholser, G., Jamieson, K. H.
  New York: Oxford University Press.2005
- **Regulation Through Revelation: The Origin, Politics, and Impacts of the Toxics Release**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  New York: Cambridge University Press.2005
- **Environmental Equity and the Siting of Hazardous Waste Facilities in OECD Countries: Evidence and Policies** *International Yearbook of Environmental and Resource Economics 2005/2006*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Tietenberg, T., Folmer, H.
  Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.2005
- **News in the Public Interest: A Free and Subsidized Press** *2004 John Breaux Symposium*
  Hamilton, J.
  edited by Hamilton, J.
  2004
- **All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News.**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  Princeton: Princeton University Press.2004
- **The market value of reducing cancer risk: Hedonic housing prices with changing information** *SOUTHERN ECONOMIC JOURNAL*
  Gayer, T., Hamilton, J. T., Viscusi, W. K.
  2002; 69 (2): 266-289

- **Private values of risk tradeoffs at superfund sites: Housing market evidence on learning about risk** *REVIEW OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS*
  Gayer, T., Hamilton, J. T., Viscusi, W. K.
  2000; 82 (3): 439-451
- **Television Violence and Public Policy**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Hamilton, J. T.
  2000
- **Channeling Violence: The Economic Market for Violent Television Programming**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  2000
- **Are risk regulators rational? Evidence from hazardous waste cleanup decisions** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW*
  Viscusi, W. K., Hamilton, J. T.
  1999; 89 (4): 1010-1027
- **Exercising property rights to pollute: Do cancer risks and politics affect plant emission reductions?** *JOURNAL OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1999; 18 (2): 105-124
- **How costly is "Clean"? An analysis of the benefits and costs of superfund site remediations** *JOURNAL OF POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT*
  Hamilton, J. T., Viscusi, W. K.
  1999; 18 (1): 2-27
- **Calculating Risks? The Spatial and Political Dimensions of Hazardous Waste Policy**
  Hamilton, J. T., Viscusi, W. K.
  Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.1999
- **Channeling Violence: The Economic Market for Violent Television Programming**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  Princeton University Press.1998
- **Television Violence and Public Policy**
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Hamilton, J. T.
  Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.1998
- **Who Will Rate the Ratings** *The V-chip Debate: Content Filtering from Television to the Internet*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Price, M. E.
  Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.1998: 133–156
- **Conservative versus mean risk assessments: Implications for superfund policies** *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT*
  Viscusi, W. K., Hamilton, J. T., Dockins, P. C.
  1997; 34 (3): 187-206
- **Taxes, torts, and the toxics release inventory: Congressional voting on instruments to control pollution** *ECONOMIC INQUIRY*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1997; 35 (4): 745-762
- **The Magnitude and Policy Implications of Health Risks from Hazardous Waste Sites** *Foundations of Environmental Law and Policy*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Revesz, R. L.
  New York: Oxford University Press.1997: 256–263

- **The Benefits and Costs of Regulatory Reforms for Superfund** *Stanford Environmental Law Journal*
  Hamilton, J. T., Viscusi, W. K.
  1997; 16 (2): 159-198
- **Cleaning up superfund** *PUBLIC INTEREST*
  Viscusi, W. K., Hamilton, J. T.
  1996: 52-60
- **Biased ballots? The impact of ballot structure on North Carolina elections in 1992** *PUBLIC CHOICE*
  Hamilton, J. T., Ladd, H. F.
  1996; 87 (3-4): 259-280
- **Noncompliance in environmental reporting: Are violators ignorant, or evasive, of the law?** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Brehm, J., Hamilton, J. T.
  1996; 40 (2): 444-477
- **Private interests in "public interest" programming: An economic assessment of broadcaster incentives** *DUKE LAW JOURNAL*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1996; 45 (6): 1177-1192
- **Going by the (Informal) Book: The EPA's Use of Informal Rules in Enforcing Hazardous Waste Laws** *Reinventing Government and The Problem of Bureaucracy*
  Hansen, J. T.
  edited by LIbecap, G.
  Greenwich, CT: JAI Press.1996: 109–155
- **Politics and Social Costs: Estimating the Impact of Collective Action on Hazardous Waste Facilities** *The Political Economy of Environmental Protection: Analysis and Evidence*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Congleton, R. D.
  Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.1996
- **POLLUTION AS NEWS - MEDIA AND STOCK-MARKET REACTIONS TO THE TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY DATA** *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1995; 28 (1): 98-113
- **TESTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM - PREJUDICE, PROFITS, POLITICAL-POWER** *JOURNAL OF POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1995; 14 (1): 107-132
- **The Magnitude and Policy Implications of Health Risks from Hazardous Waste Sites** *Analyzing Superfund: Economics, Science, and Law*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  edited by Revesz, R. L., Stewart, R. B.
  Washington: Resources for the Future.1995: 55–81
- **STRATEGIC REGULATORS AND THE CHOICE OF RULEMAKING PROCEDURES - THE SELECTION OF FORMAL VS INFORMAL RULES IN REGULATING HAZARDOUS-WASTE** *LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS*
  Hamilton, J. T., Schroeder, C. H.
  1994; 57 (1-2): A111-A160
- **REGULATING REGULATION - THE POLITICAL-ECONOMY OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS** *LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1994; 57 (1-2): 1-2
- **HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR SUPERFUND** *ECOLOGY LAW QUARTERLY*
  Hamilton, J. T., Viscusi, W. K.
  1994; 21 (3): 573-641

- **POLITICS AND SOCIAL COSTS - ESTIMATING THE IMPACT OF COLLECTIVE ACTION ON HAZARDOUS-WASTE FACILITIES** *RAND JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1993; 24 (1): 101-125
- **Lower Pay for Analysis: Greater Rewards are Offered Those Writing Economics from Human Interest and Political Viewpoints** *Nieman Reports*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1991; 45 (3): 19-22
- **Missing the Mark(et) in Siting Hazardous Waste Facilities** *Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum*
  Hamilton, J. T.
  1991; 1: 11-16
- **Employers Large and Small**
  Hamiltom, J. T., Brown, C., Medoff, J.
  Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.1990